

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

DILATION & IRRIGATION OF THE NASO-LACRIMAL DUCTS

Name:	Dilation & Irrigation of the Naso-Lacrimal Ducts
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Dilation and irrigation of the naso-lacrimal ducts may be used as a diagnostic or treatment procedure. These procedures temporarily enlarge the punctual opening to the canaliculi for insertion of occlusion devices and/or irrigation of material from the canaliculi and the naso-lacrimal ducts and/ or to maintain complete patency of the system.

Optometrists providing this service must be competent in performing these techniques and have a thorough understanding of the anatomical features and fluid dynamics of the lacrimal system to determine the location of an obstruction or the clinical basis for occlusion. Agents such as fluorescein dye can be used to test the patency of the tear drainage system.

Appropriate infection controls must be used.